

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claims 1 and 3 remain pending in the above-identified Application.

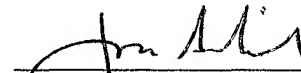
2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner provides that "claim 1 is vague, indefinite and confusing in that it is directed to a composition of matter prepared in a detailed series of steps, wherein the mutants of a certain strain are indicated as capable of a certain process of biotransformation." Applicants have amended claim 1 to even more clearly point out that which Applicants consider to be the claimed invention. Support for the proposed amendments is found in the specification as originally filed (e.g., please see page 3, lines 6-19, page 24, lines 23-26, or page 35, lines 3-6); hence, as the Examiner will appreciate, no new matter is being added by the proposed amendments. Therefore, entry of the amendments hereinabove and reconsideration of the Office Action mailed June 17, 2003 are respectfully requested.

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner provides that "claim 3 is vague, indefinite and confusing in the use of the phrase 'is capable of allowing the separable elution of a fraction comprising a polypeptide.'" Applicants have amended claim 3 to even more clearly point out that which Applicants consider to be the claimed invention. Support for the proposed amendments is found in the specification as originally filed (e.g., please see page 21, lines 10-27, or page 24, lines 11-16); hence, as the Examiner will appreciate, no new matter is being added by the proposed amendments. Therefore, entry of the amendments hereinabove and reconsideration of the Office Action mailed June 17, 2003 are respectfully requested.

4. Applicants believe that the amendments hereinabove to claims 1 and 3 place the Application in condition for immediate allowance. Therefore, entry of the amendments hereinabove and reconsideration of the Office Action mailed June 17, 2003 are respectfully requested. Such prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 18, 2003



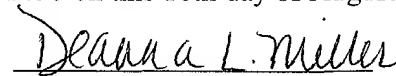
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA22313-1450 on this 18th day of August, 2003.

By:


Deanna L. Miller